

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01700 271218Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00

OPR-02 IO-14 ACDA-10 NEA-10 EURE-00 /096 W

-----096965 271227Z /40

O P 271142Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4815

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

CINCUSAREUR

UNCLAS USBERLIN 1700

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, WB

SUBJ: SUSPECTED CRIMINAL KILLED BY POLICE IN FRONT OF US

HEADQUARTERS

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 0640 HOURS JUNE 27, WEST BERLIN CRIMINAL POLICE SHOT AND KILLED AT INTERSECTION ACROSS FROM US HEADQUARTERS COMPOUND A MAN TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS A PALESTINIAN/ARAB, WHO WAS SUSPECTED OF PLANNING THE ROBBERY OF A NEARBY BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT. INVESTIGATION OF KILLING IS CONTINUING, BUT FOLLOWING IS THE SUM OF INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FROM POLICE SOURCES.

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2. DURING THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 26 (SUNDAY), CENTRAL CRIMINAL POLICE DUTY OFFICER RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A MAN IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS PALESTINIAN/ARAB WHO INFORMED THE POLICE OF A ROBBERY AGAINST A BERLIN-ZEHLENDORF BOARDING HOUSE RESTAURANT (OWNED BY AN ITALIAN BUSINESSMAN) WHILE HE AND TWO OTHER ARABS WERE PLANNING TO COMMIT IN THE FOLLOWING 24 HOURS.

THE INTENDED ROBBERY SITE IS LOCATED ON CLAYALLE AND MEISENSTRASSE WHICH IS A SHORT TWO BLOCKS NORTH OF THE HEADQUARTERS COMPOUND. ALTHOUGH A DESCRIPTION WAS GIVEN OF THE TWO OTHER MEN, WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED, THE CALLER REFUSED TO NAME EITHER INDIVIDUAL.

3. THE AREA AROUND THE BUSINESS WAS PLACED UNDER IMMEDIATE SURVEILLANCE BY THE CRIMINAL POLICE. DURING THE EVENING OF JUNE 26, THE MEN ANSWERING THE GENRAL DESCRIPTION, WERE OBSERVED IN A CAR NEAR THE RESTAURANT, APPARENTLY WAITING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE OWNER. DURING THE NIGHT THE TWO CHANGED THE BERLIN LICENSE PLATES OF THIS CAR TO CUSTOMS PLATES. THE TWO REMAINED UNDER OBSERVATION BY THE POLICE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND AT 0640 JUNE 27, THE POLICE DECIDED TO DETAIN THEM FOR QUESTIONING WHILE THEY WERE WALKING IN THE VICINITY. THE POLICE ORDERED THEM TO HALT, WHEREUPON ONE OF THEM TREATENINGLY REACHED IN HIS POCKET. THE OFFICE FIRED ONE SHOT, KILLING THE MAN INSTANTLY. SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION DETERMINED THAT THE DECEASED WAS NOT ARMED, BUT HE DID HAVE A KNIFE IN HIS POSSESSION. HIS IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED, ALTHOUGH HE IS BELIEVED TO BE OF PALESTINIAN/ARAB BACKGROUND. ACCORDING TO POLICE, THE CALLER HAD DESCRIBED THIS INDIVIDUAL AS "EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE AND USUALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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ARMED", THEREFORE, THE POLICEMAN WHO FIRED, ASSUMED THE SUSPECT WAS REACHING FOR A WEAPON WHEN HE REACHED IN HIS POCKET.

4. SECOND MAN IN THIS INCIDENT SURRENDERED AT THE SCENE TO THE POLICE AND IS NOW IN CUSTODY. HE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS MOHAMMED ALTAR, A LABORER, BORN NOVEMBER 27, 1952 IN AGABET, JORDAN, PRESENTLY RESIDING IN THE NEUKOELLN DISTRICT OF BERLIN. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN ENROUTE TO A JOB PROSPECT, AND NOT TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE PLANNED ROBBERY, OR TO HAVE KNOWN THE SUSPECT SHOT BY THE POLICE.

5. COMMENT: ON THE BASIS OF THE INITIAL INVESTIGATION, THIS INCIDENT APPEARS TO BE SOLELY A CRIMINAL POLICE MATTER WITH NO RPT NOT POLITICAL MOTIVATION.

6. USCOB CONCURS.DAVIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009